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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 2705

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000947

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WHA FOR A/S SHANNON AND PDAS SHAPIRO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/18/2017

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SP](#) [VZ](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN ON FUTURE OF RCTV

REF: A. SECSTATE 67643

[1](#)B. MADRID 741

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 b & d.

[1](#)1. (C) Though not an action addressee on ref A, Post continues to press the GOS to use high-level contact with the BRV to support Venezuelan press freedom, specifically RCTV. As described in ref B, Post helped arrange meetings for RCTV owner Marcel Granier with National Security Adviser Carles Casajuana and Director General for Latin America Javier Sandomingo. The Ambassador and DCM also met with Granier for 90 minutes and discussed various ways to get Spain and other European governments more engaged on the matter.

[1](#)2. (C) On May 17, DCM raised the issue again with Secretary of State for Latin America Trinidad Jimenez. She said that FM Moratinos had recently called BRV FM Maduro and made a strong pitch against the closure of RCTV. Jimenez said that Maduro had been more open on the issue than usual and suggested that the decision to permanently close RCTV had not been finalized. Jimenez said that although having no illusions about Chavez and the path he is taking Venezuela, she was for the first time moderately optimistic about being able to turn the Venezuelans around on RCTV. She said that Spain would work closely with EU partners to make sure this remained a front burner issue in discussions with Venezuelan officials.
LLORENS